



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Evacuate Injured Climber from Garnet Canyon

Grand Teton National Park rangers and an interagency contract helicopter evacuated an injured climber from Garnet Canyon on Tuesday afternoon, June 27, at approximately 4:00 p.m. Natalie Pinecaud, age 23, from Victor, Idaho slipped while descending a snowfield, and was not able to self arrest using her ice axe. Pinecaud tumbled about 100 feet, seriously injuring her leg before coming to a stop in a streambed near the Spalding Falls switchbacks at the 9,600-foot elevation.

Park employees working in the area called Teton Interagency Dispatch Center to report the incident, after encountering Pinecaud and her climbing partner, Nick Gladd, age 25, also of Victor, Idaho. Due to the nature of Pinecaud's injuries, the location of the accident, and an approaching thunderstorm, rangers decided to utilize the interagency contract helicopter for evacuation.

Initially two rangers were flown to the scene, arriving at 2:45 p.m. They assessed Pinecaud's injuries, provided emergency medical care, and stabilized her for transport by air. Four additional rangers were flown in to further assist the injured climber and her partner.

Rangers used the short-haul technique to fly the patient and a ranger - suspended below the helicopter on a double rope system - to Lupine Meadows. The helicopter landed at Lupine Meadows at approximately 4:15 p.m. Pinecaud was then transported by ambulance to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment.

This marks the eighth major search and rescue operation in Grand Teton National Park this year.

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